

Message Text

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INFO AMCONSUL ZAGREB UNN

C O N F I D E N T I A L BELGRADE 3918

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT YO

SUBJECT: KOMUNIST ATTACK ON RUDI SUPEK AND CURRENT
MOVES ON UNIVERSITY DISSIDENTS

REF: BELGRADE 3368

1. JULY 21 KOMUNIST CARRIES LONG CRITICAL ARTICLE ON
ZAGREB UNIVERSITY PROFESSOR RUDI SUPEK. FUAD MUHIC (SARAJEVO
PROFESSOR AND MEMBER OF CC LC BOSNIA) ATTACKS "THESIS OF DIFF-
ERENT SYSTEMS OF VALUES" ATTRIBUTED TO SUPEK. MUHIC CONCLUDES
THIS THESIS "IS DIRECTLY LEVELED AGAINST POLICY OF LCY AND OF
LCS IN ALL REPUBLICS AND PROVINCES, AND THEIR LEADERSHIPS."

2. SUPEK, AS DEPARTMENT IS AWARE, HAS LONG RECORD OF DISSIDENT
ACTIVITY, AND THERE HAVE BEEN SOME PRIVATE INDICATIONS ACTION
AGAINST HIM AND OTHER ZAGREB DISSIDENTS COULD BE EXPECTED. MUHIC
ARTICLE IS FIRST PUBLIC SIGN THIS ACTION HAS BEEN INITIATED. WE
WOULD NOW EXPECT A CONCERTED ATTEMPT (PROBABLY ALREADY UNDER
WAY IN PRIVATE) TO PRESSURE THE UNIVERSITY TO REMOVE SUPEK, AND
POSSIBLY SOME OF HIS ASSOCIATES, FROM THEIR PRESENT POSITIONS
(SUPEK IS REPORTEDLY STILL DEAN OF THE ZAGREB PHILOSOPHICAL
FACULTY AS WELL AS PRESIDENT OF THE YUGOSLAV SOCIOLOGY ASSOCIATION).
IF PRESSURE FAILS, THE NEW CROATIAN LAW ON HIGHER EDUCATION, JUDG-
ING FROM PREVIOUS LEGAL CHANGES IN SERBIA AND SLOVENIA, SHOULD
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ENABLE THE CROATIAN REPUBLICAN ASSEMBLY TO DIRECTLY INTER-

VENE WHEN IT GOES INTO EFFECT AROUND THE END OF THIS YEAR.

3. MUHIC ARTICLE COINCIDES WITH INCREASING INDICATIONS OF CONCRETE LC INTENTION TO REMOVE DISSENTERS FROM UNIVERSITY TEACHING POSITIONS AROUND THE COUNTRY. NEW MOVES, IN SHARP CONTRAST TO BELGRADE EIGHT, ARE GENERALLY RECEIVING LITTLE, IF ANY, PUBLICITY. PRIME EXAMPLE WAS CASE OF LJUBLJANA FOUR (REFTEL) WHOSE LOSS OF TEACHING POSITIONS HAS BEEN PRIVATELY CONFIRMED BY SEVERAL EMBASSY CONTACTS. ANOTHER EXAMPLE, NOW CONFIRMED PRIVATELY, IS RECENT REMOVAL OF SEVEN BELGRADE LAW FACULTY PROFESSORS WHO SIGNED LETTER DEFENDING MIHAJLO DJURIC SEVERAL YEARS AGO. THIRD CASE MAY BE SPLIT GROUP WHO HAVE REPORTEDLY LOST THEIR TEACHING POSITIONS DURING THE LAST TWO MONTHS. RUMOR INDICATES FOURTH EXAMPLE IN SEVERAL PROFESSORS AT NOVI SAD CONNECTED WITH 1968 "EVENTS".

4. DISSIDENTS THEMSELVES APPEAR, FOR MOST PART, TO BE ACCEPTING SITUATION QUIETLY. ONE, INVOLVED IN 1968 BELGRADE UNIVERSITY DEMONSTRATIONS, EXPLAINED MANY NOW FELT THEY HAD PUSHED LIBERALIZATION AS FAR AS IT COULD GO AT PRESENT. REQUIREMENT NOW IS TO LOWER PROFILE AND SURVIVE UNTIL NEW OPPORTUNITY ARISES. THE CONTINUING PRACTICE OF MOVING DISSIDENTS FROM TEACHING TO RESEARCH POSITIONS RATHER THAN FIRING THEM OUTRIGHT WILL PROBABLY MUTE OVERSEAS COMPLAINTS.
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